



Committee on Homeland Security

Democrats

**Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking
Member**

www.house.gov/hsc/democrats/

April 27, 2005

Contact: Nadra Harrison
202.226.2616

DEMOCRATS TO INTRODUCE AMENDMENT ON AGROTERRORISM:

“Protect Our Food Supply from Field to Fork”

April 27, 2005, Washington, DC — Democrats on the House Committee on Homeland Security will offer legislation that provides more protection to America’s food supply in today’s open markup session to consider the Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act for fiscal year 2006.

Congressman Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS), Ranking Member of the House Committee on Homeland Security Thompson stated, **“Terrorists have ample opportunity to introduce a highly contagious disease into our domestic livestock population. Diseases such as foot-and-mouth (FMD) disease can infect all hoofed animals such as hogs, cattle or sheep, and could spread through an entire state in a matter of days. As a Member of Congress from a predominantly rural state where agriculture is a leading industry and job generator, I have a responsibility to hold the Bush Administration accountable for not moving faster to address the threats to our livestock industry.”**

The amendment introduced by Congressman Thompson and Rep. Bob Etheridge (D-NC) requires the Secretary to report to Congress on its progress in implementing the Government Accountability Office’s (GAO) agro-terror recommendations within 120 days of enactment of the bill.

###